

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected previous claims 23-25, 27-28, 30-32, 36, 38, 39, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Sunada in view of Motamed and Tischer. Claims 26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Sunada in view of Motamed and Tischer further in view of Roztocil.

New claim 44 readily distinguishes over Sunada combined with Motamed further combined with Tischer at least by reciting that the formatting first data is stored in a formatting file which is separate from the remainder print data file for any print data for the remainder of the separation sheet outside the register tab. Also a tab data file which is separate from the formatting file and from the remainder print data file is provided comprising data of the elements to be printed on the register tab. Thus three separate files are provided which may be easily manipulated independently of each other and exchanged between users. These three separate files are loaded into the computer system and these three separate files are then stored in a separator sheet file added to the print data stream. Sunada teaches directly away from this concept as clearly demonstrated in Figure 9 where his image forming area and tab are all one single file. The key disadvantage of this is clearly demonstrated by Sunada at paragraph 0076 where he indicates that it is necessary to shift the image forming area so that the tab information which is part of the image forming area can be printed on the same sheet as the image forming area. This key disadvantage is avoided with claim 44 since no shifting is necessary during printing. The separate tab data file and separate formatting file allows for printing at the tab region without shifting since it is independent of the remainder of the tab. No shifting is required of the type described at line 7 of paragraph 0076.

Furthermore, Sunada does not even discuss a separate file for formatting. For this the Examiner cites Motamed. But Motamed never discusses separate files for his formatting information. Moreover, Motamed as shown at Fig. 10 only prints on the tab and does not even print on the remainder of the tab sheet. Thus it is impossible for Motamed to satisfy the deficiencies of Sunada since Motamed only has one file – namely the tab file which contains both the formatting information and the text information – see abstract of Motamed where his formatting information is combined with his tab text information.

At page 2 of the Office Action in paragraph 1, the Examiner states as follows:

“While Sunada may disclose printing on the tab portion and the separation sheet outside of the tab portion, it is known to solely print on the tab portion of the separation sheet as is disclosed by Motamed (see Fig. 10)”.

But printing solely on the tab portion by Motamed where he does not even print on the remainder of the sheet teaches nothing about having a separate file for the tab format, a separate file for the tab data, and a separate file for the remainder of the tab sheet outside of the tab portion. Also Motamed has only one file for tab formatting and tab text.

At page 4 at the middle of the Office Action the Examiner talks about printing on mixed sheets as disclosed by Sunada. Presumably what the Examiner is referring to here is paragraph 0063 of Sunada in which one text sheet document is printed and one tab-sheet document is printed and these tab sheets are mixed with the non-tab sheets. But this mixing has nothing to do with a separate file for tab format, a separate file for tab data, and a separate file for the remainder of the separator sheet where these three separate files are then processed and stored in a separator sheet file for the printing process. Thus Sunada teaches directly away

from this by providing only one file initially which requires the shifting disadvantage disclosed in paragraph 0076.

In summary, claim 44 distinguishes by reciting the three separate files. Sunada has only one file for remainder data and tab data and no tab formatting file separate from a tab data file and a remainder data file. Motamed only has a single file for tab data and tab format and does not even discuss printing in the remainder of the separator sheet.

Tischer does not satisfy the deficiencies of Sunada combined with Motamed since Tischer only teaches digital content in the first file and style definition in the second file but has nothing to do with separator sheet printing and does not even mention a separator sheet having a tab.

Applicant's specification discloses the separate formatting file as the template shown in Fig. 11, step S14 and page 12, lines 8-18; and also the separator sheet profile at page 5, line 9 to page 6, line 15. The separate tab data file is shown as the text file at Fig. 11, step S24, page 12, lines 18-23, and page 9, lines 22-31. The separate remainder print data file is shown as the superimposed pdf file at Figure 11, step S30, page 12, lines 29 through page 13, line 7 and Fig. 6, the pdf file referenced in checkbox 118, and page 10, lines 12-19. See also page 15, lines 9-20.

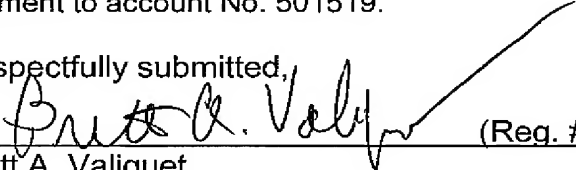
Dependent claims 45-61 distinguish at least for the reasons claim 44 distinguishes.

System claim 62 distinguishes for the same reasons claim 44 distinguishes.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,


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